



RCAA Annual Report 2018

Highlights of the year for the RCAA included a submission to the Minister of National Defence concerning job protection legislation for Reservists, efforts put forward by the Executive Director on the integrated website (rca-arc.org) that required more time and effort than anticipated, a donor offer to fund an annual bursary for post-secondary education at the second year and higher, the change of our newsletter frequency from weekly to monthly and the engagement of a new editor, the provision of a permanent trophy for the RMC Prize, progress on our welfare committee moving forward and the preparation of a budget and the implementation of some cost saving and revenue generating ideas.

At last year's AGM a motion was passed to develop a position on Initiative #82 of Strong, Secure, and Engaged concerning job protection for Reservists. A position was developed by the Executive Director with the support of the CDA and some member Associations and a letter containing the suggestions was sent to MND on 28 Mar. We received an acknowledgement of the letter in early July advising us that our letter has been forwarded to department officials for their consideration. We intend to follow up with CAF officials in January to get an update on the extent to which our recommendations are being taken into account in advancing the initiative.

Through the CDA the President was put in touch with Dr. Janice Goerzen, (the daughter of a former RSM of 3 RCHA) who wished to establish a bursary for former horse gunners and their dependants entering a medical field of study. She agreed to some changes in the criteria since the initial contact. At the September RCA Senate meeting it was agreed that the RCAA would administer the bursary. She also made a sizable donation to the RCA Museum. The bursary will be \$3000 annually for serving or retired Regular Force Artillery members and their immediate family entering the second or higher year of study leading to a degree or diploma in a substantive field of study. Details can be found under the Recognition tab in the website (rca-arc.org)

Our newsletter changed from weekly to monthly with the December issue in response to the results of a reader survey conducted by the Executive Director. In order to concentrate on his role as Executive Director, it was necessary to recruit a new editor to start with the March issue. We were successful in recruiting Catherine Gagnon, who is bilingual and has considerable experience editing newsletters. As part of the RCA communications strategy, the newsletter is intended to become the vehicle for current information and the website for enduring information. The newsletter can be subscribed to by contacting the editor at editor.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com

In May the RCAA Prize for the best graduating Combat Arms Cadet was awarded on the RMC graduation parade to OCdt Patrick Saumure by BGen (ret'd) Beno. This was the inaugurate presentation of what is now styled the Brigadier-General WW Turner, CD award for the Top Artillery graduating Cadet. The prize consists of a watch (purchased and engraved by RMC with the bill sent to us) and a permanent trophy consisting of a McCrae stature maquette mounted on a wooden base. The maquette was generously donated by HCol Mike McKay.



We developed a budget incorporating some cost saving and revenue generating ideas for the Board of Directors to start us on a path to a balanced budget in the future.

Some initiatives that were undertaken in hopes of generating increased revenue through memberships, sponsorships and the TD Meloche Affinity program. These included the Executive Director reaching out to units and other Artillery associations to encourage increased subscriptions to the newsletter. The membership application form was revised to include a partial list of things the Association does. The President and Vice President revised the sponsor benefit table to provide graduated visibility to a sponsor in the newsletter and on the new website in addition to exposure at the AGM. Copies of adverts for the newsletter and membership applications were provided to the RCA Reunion for inclusion in their welcome packages. For the second year the Executive Director made presentations to the Junior Officers' Course and the Honorary Colonels seminar.

At our Executive meeting in October Capt Tom Watters was given the go head to proceed with his plan to develop our approach to the welfare of retired gunners. He expects to have his plan ready for review in January. The Artillery Support Group of Guelph generously donated \$1000 to provide the Welfare Committee with some seed money.

In February we were represented at the CDA/CDAI by the President, Vice, Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, a Board Member, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Col Commandant. The CDA has appointed Sean McGrath to liaise with Associations and communications with them are much improved. During the time period of the CDA/CDAI we had an Executive meeting. At this time we announced the RCAA bursary winners. No applications were received for The Lieutenant-Colonel Jack de Hart, MC, CD Memorial Bursary so it was not awarded this year. The Master Gunner EM (Chip) Evoy, MM and bar Memorial Bursary was won by Bdr Haleigh Vanderpost of 56 Fd Regt. Details of these bursaries can be found under the Recognition tab in the website (rca-arc.org)

We were ably represented on the Capt Nicola Goddard Game Changer Award selection committee by Col (Ret'd) Bob Elrick again this year.

Our AGM was again held in Morrison Artillery Park, Home of 30 Fd Regt, RCA in Ottawa the day following the RCA Board in October. This AGM marked the retirement of Col (Ret'd) Gary Burton from the Board of Directors after six years, five of them as Chair. The Executive for the ensuing year are:

- President: LCol (Ret'd) Leon Jensen, OMM, CD
- Vice President, Col (Ret'd) Craig Dalton, CD
- Secretary-Treasurer: LCol (Ret'd) Don, Hamilton, CD
- Executive Director: Col (Ret'd) Peter Williams, MSM, CD
- Past President: LCol (Ret'd) Bob Elliott, OMM, CD

In our advocacy role we passed the following motion:

"That the RCAA develop a position on conditions of service and career paths, in accordance with the intent of initiatives #6 and #78 of SSE, mindful of extant work being undertaken on "The Journey" 'and



in partnership with key stakeholders, with a view to being presented to the Minister of National Defence by the end of the first quarter of 2019."

Our challenges for the coming year are to improve our communications with our members and to recruit more volunteers to staff the following committees: Recruiting and Membership, Public Relations Director, Fund Raising and Legacy.